

REMARKS

Claims 8-26 remain in this application. Claims 1-7 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,302,482 to Moll et al. Reconsideration is requested.

Currently amended claim 8 defines the vehicle seat forming the subject matter of this application as including, in addition to other elements, a backrest having a locking mechanism which can be operated by a draw band running centrally of the backrest between laterally opposite sides of the backrest and configured to secure the backrest in the sliding block guides. These features are discussed, for example, in paragraphs 0024-0027 of the substitute specification, and serve to distinguish the present invention from the chair forming the subject matter of the Moll et al. patent.

In the rejection based on the Moll et al. patent, the Examiner asserts that the Moll et al. chair "backrest has a locking mechanism which can be operated by a draw band..." It is not made clear in the rejection which elements of the Moll et al. chair the Examiner considers to constitute a "locking mechanism" as specified. While the Moll et al. patent does in fact discuss a clamping means 43, configured as a locking bolt, from line 64 in column 6 to line 9 in column 7, the Moll et al. locking bolt is not operated by a draw band running centrally of a backrest between laterally opposite sides as currently amended claim 8 particularly defines. Nothing suggests modifying the Moll et al. chair so as to

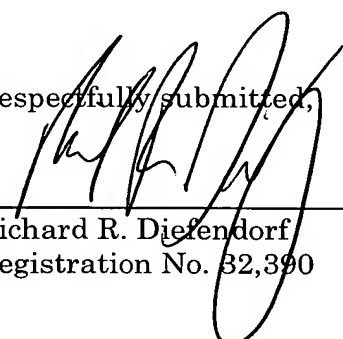
meet the limitations mentioned, moreover, and it is respectfully submitted that currently amended claim 8 is patentable. The rest of the claims in this application are dependent claims and are considered patentable as well.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is presently in condition for allowance for reasons discussed above. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.55319US).

Date: January 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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